Special Call for Proposals for Establishment of ICMR Centre for Advanced Research (CAR) for the Development of Priority Medical Devices and Diagnostic Technologies

INDIAN COUNCIL OF MEDICAL RESEARCH (ICMR), Medical Device and Diagnostic Mission Secretariat (MDMS), Division of Development Research, New Delhi

1. Background

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), the apex body in India for the formulation, coordination and promotion of biomedical research, established in 1911, is one of the oldest medical research bodies in the world. ICMR has been actively fostering biomedical innovation through translational research, technology development, validation, and strategic partnerships aimed at addressing national healthcare priorities.

ICMR has launched several initiatives to expedite national advancements in medical technology translation—which have successfully driven numerous technologies from conceptualization to securing formal Test Licenses, regulation compliant clinical evaluation leading to Manufacturing Licenses. Building upon these advancements, ICMR is launching a mission-mode initiative for the establishment of Centres for Advanced Research under its Extramural Research Programme. These CARs will focus on the development of priority medical devices and diagnostic technologies addressing unmet clinical needs identified by ICMR through extensive stakeholder consultations. The initiative seeks to promote the development of affordable, accessible, and indigenous healthcare technologies of national public health relevance for wider public benefit and long-term self-reliance in the MedTech sector. The priority medical devices and diagnostic technologies have been identified through a rigorous exercise involving eminent clinicians in different clinical settings across the country including clinicians from tier-1, tier-2 & tier-3 cities, resulting in a curated list of ~100 priority unmet clinical need based medical device/diagnostic technologies. The priority list of technologies is placed at Annexure-I.

2. Vision

To establish a robust national network of Centres for Advanced Research among the selected applicants from the top 25 premier institutions as designated by the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) 2025 for the rapid development of regulatory-compliant indigenous medical device and diagnostic technologies of national importance, addressing unmet clinical needs and strengthening India’s MedTech ecosystem.

3. Objective

To select and support investigator-initiated Centres for Advanced Research proposals from top 25 NIRF ranked institutions for accelerated development of multiple high-quality, regulatory-compliant medical devices and diagnostic technologies addressing unmet clinical needs, from the published ICMR-curated list of ~100 priority technologies.

4. Scope

Applicants must select and propose the development of at least 8 to 10 technologies (a mixed bag of low-risk and high-risk technologies) from the ICMR ~100 Priority Technologies List (Annexure I).

Infrastructure: Implementation of the proposals must leverage existing infrastructure. Funding is restricted to product development; no grants will be provided for new infrastructure development, while specific upgradation of existing infrastructure to meet the proposed technology development needs may be permitted with appropriate justification.

5. Eligibility Criteria

This call is strictly restricted to the investigators from nation's top 25 premier institutions as designated by the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) 2025, under the Overall Category (Annexure II). Eligible applicants must be regular faculty members of the engineering and technological institutions that possess a distinguished and verifiable track record in advanced research, innovation, and product development. Beyond academic excellence, participating institutions must demonstrate robust capabilities in translating conceptual frameworks into tangible technologies, evidenced by a documented history of successful commercial prototyping, patent commercialization, technology transfers, or the active incubation of deep-tech startups.

6. How to Apply

A proposal can be submitted for financial support through ONLINE MODE ONLY by the Principal Investigator, with a regular employment in the **Top 25 Institutes as per NIRF Ranking 2025 in the Overall Category (Annexure II)**. The proposed team should be of scientists/ professionals preferably from the **Top 25 Institutes as per NIRF Ranking 2025 in the Overall Category**, with credentials for relevant skills, experience and demonstrated ability to solve health problems under consideration. Research teams with outstanding achievements, recognition and proven excellence in the area and having the necessary infrastructure to carry out further work are encouraged to apply. The institute and principal investigator will be supported to establish CAR with an aim that the facility / ecosystem so created would continue to function and deliver even after this funding gets over. CAR should develop / lead to strengthening of the workforce of trained health technology research personnel. After completion of the project, the host institute would be expected to take over activities of the center as permanent activity.

7. Implementation Guidelines & Evaluation Preferences

To maximize the probability of successful commercialization within the 5-year CAR timeframe, the evaluation committee will apply the following preferences during the selection process:

1. Institutional Expertise: Preference will be given to the Institutions of National repute with established start-up ecosystem, demonstrating a proven track record and prior experience in development and commercialization of medical devices and diagnostics.

2. Technology Readiness Level (TRL): Preference will be given to proposals where the applicant is already working on functional prototypes at TRL 3 or TRL 4 (or above) for the chosen list of technologies (Annexure-I)

8. Budget and Financial Guidelines

Total Budget Limit: The maximum funding for a single CAR is ₹15 Crore for a duration of up to 5 years. The budget must be strictly formulated under the standard ICMR extramural funding heads following ICMR Extramural Research guidelines.

9. Submission Process & Format

Full proposal must be submitted electronically via the ICMR e-PMS portal for the submission of full proposal as per ICMR Extramural guidelines. Please refer to https://www.icmr.gov.in/icmrobject/custom_data/1720159244_guidelines_for_extramural_research_programme.pdf for template for full proposal submission.

Pitch Deck: Applicants may upload a brief Pitch Deck (MP4 format) as an annexure covering the Clinical Need, Technology Matrix, Regulatory Strategy, etc.

10. Tentative Timelines

Milestone	**Expected Date**
Launch of Call for proposal	1st June 2026
Last Date for Submission of Full Proposals	15th July 2026
Review and Final Selection	1st August 2026